

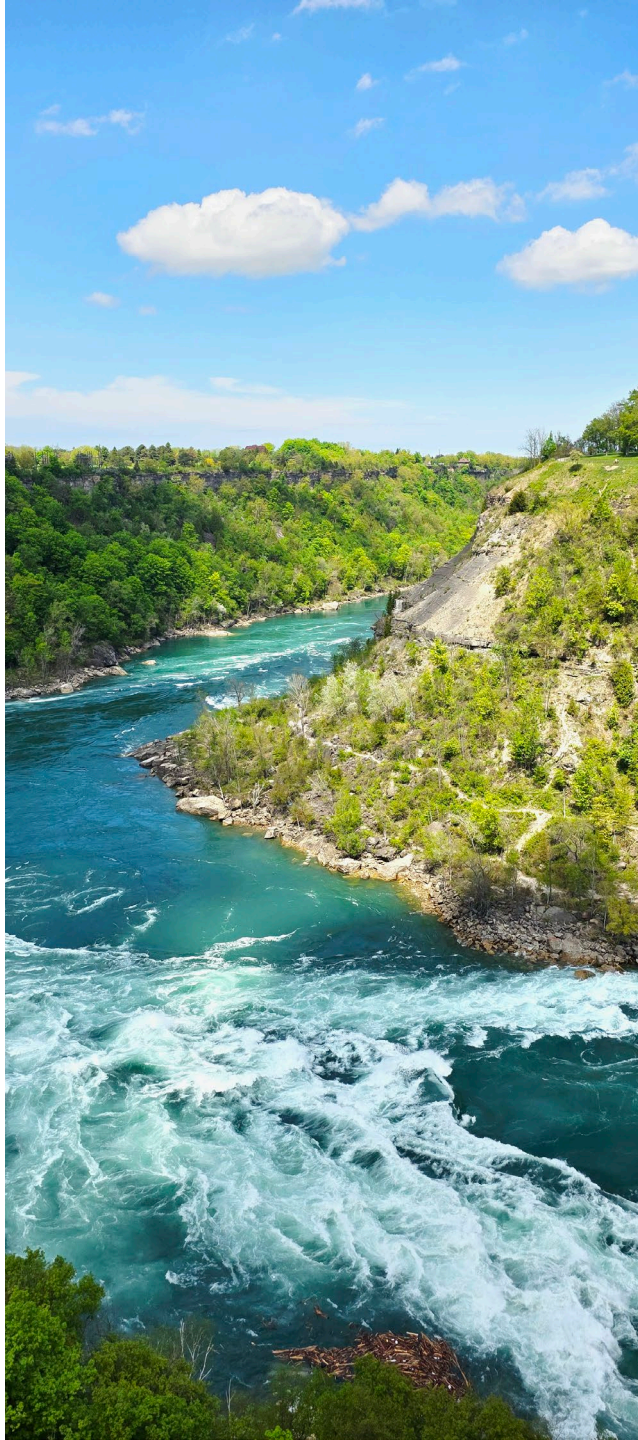


**NIAGARA
PARKS**

Business Highlights Presentation

Niagara Parks Commission – Public Meeting

Thursday, August 7, 2025



Niagara Parks

- Founded in 1885
- Operates under the Niagara Parks Act
- Two founding principles:
 - i. Niagara Parks would never be a burden to the taxpayers of Ontario
 - ii. Niagara Parks would, as much as possible, be free to enjoy
- Board-governed operational enterprise under the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming
- 12-member Board of Commissioners
- **Mandate:** To be the environmental and cultural stewards of the Niagara River Corridor
- **Vision:** To be one of the most spectacular parks in the world



Stewards of the Niagara River Corridor

- Niagara Parks is a key demand generator, driving visitation and tourism to Niagara and Ontario.
- Responsible for maintaining 56km Niagara Parkway and 53km recreation trail, numerous parks, gardens and natural areas.
- Breadth of services include Niagara Parks Police Service, School of Horticulture.
- Re-established Niagara Parks Foundation focuses on raising funds to support additional environmental and cultural stewardship projects.
- As a self-funded organization, investments into enhancing our guest experiences that in turn, drive visitation and grow revenue, directly benefit our ability to deliver on our mandate of environmental and cultural stewardship.





Funding & Operations

- One of the region's largest employers; 2,000 headcount in peak season; \$70 million payroll.
- Operating budget covers payroll, operating expenses to run its revenue-producing operations and key operational projects.
- Capital budget covers investments into deferred maintenance and strategic projects to enhance Niagara Parks' visitor experiences
 - \$175 million worth of deferred maintenance across Niagara Parks sites
 - **Major capital projects for 2025-26:**
 - *Brand-new attraction, Niagara Takes Flight*
 - *Repairs and maintenance*





Aug. 9 to 10 – Siege Weekend at Old Fort Erie

- Canada's largest and longest running battle reenactment.
- Hundreds of reenactors will recreate an authentic military encampment & provide a glimpse into life during the War of 18.
- Battle reenactments and camp areas are open to the public at no charge, with all battles occurring in the South Field behind the Fort. Admission to Old Fort Erie and the Saturday Night Lantern Tour can be purchased on-site.
- Free public parking is available at the parkettes along Lakeshore Road near Beatrice Street.
- A free shuttle will operate throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.(Saturday) and Sunday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), transporting guests from the parkettes to the Old Fort Erie Welcome Centre every 15 minutes.



Construction Underway for Toronto Power Redevelopment

- This week construction crews began building a cofferdam within the Niagara River to facilitate access to the east side of the building.
- During this period, a full-time lane reduction of the eastern north bound lane will be in place and the pedestrian pathways to the north and south of the building will be closed.
- A pedestrian detour around the closure is in place, with crosswalks available near Dufferin Islands and at Fraser Hill to access the Niagara River Recreation Trail on the opposite side of the Niagara Parkway.
- Northbound WEGO Bus Stop being temporarily relocated closer to Fraser Hill to enhance pedestrian access and safety.



Niagara Takes Flight Update

- Niagara Takes Flight is on schedule, with major work completed, fine-tuning underway.
- Staff training initiated in mid-July.
- Presale tickets are now available for guests to purchase.
- Previews with staff, extras, production crew beginning on August 17.
- August 29 – Opening Day





Business Development

Golf

- Aug. 25 - The annual NPC Women's Public Golf Tournament is set for Sunday, August 25 at Whirlpool Golf Course.
 - Registration is open via 905-356-1140.
- 9 and Dine specials at Whirlpool and Chippawa are gaining popularity among regulars and new guests.
- NPC will issue an RFP to rent a new fleet of golf carts for the 2026 season.



Business Development

Sales and Events

July 2025 sales and activities included:

Hosted

- One Business Event Familiarization Tour
- Two Travel Trade Familiarization Tours
- Six Business Event Client Site Inspections
- 12 Business Events
- Nine Wedding Ceremonies and Nine Wedding Receptions

Attended

- July 8 – Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce Business After 5
- July 10 – Niagara Tourism Network Meeting

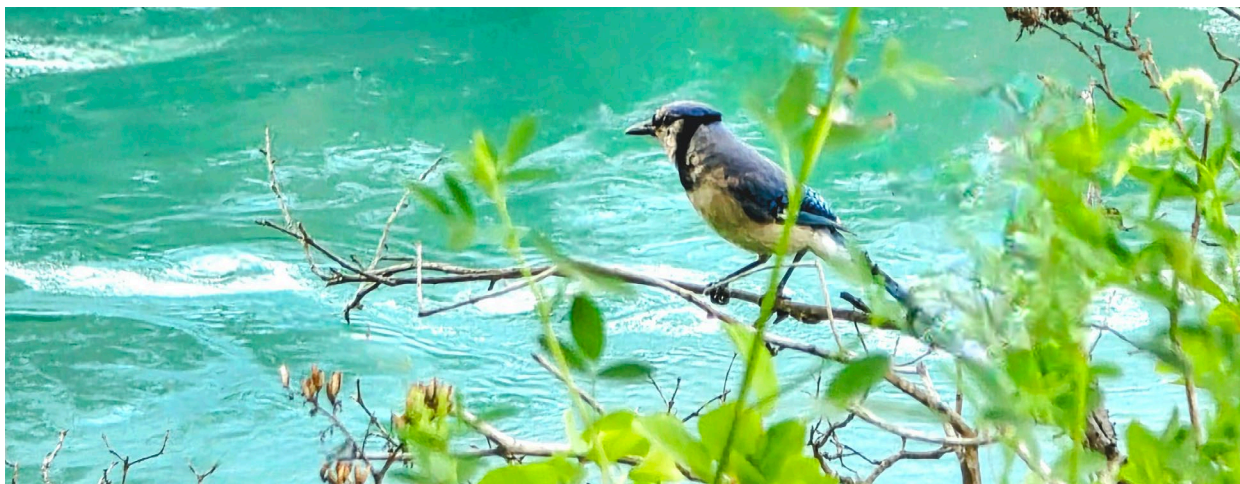




Planning, Environment and Culture

Heritage and Legacy

- July 5: The annual Battle of Chippawa Commemorative Ceremony was held, marking the 211th anniversary of the battle.
- July 9: The Federal Government's Canada Strong Pass Initiative was launched at our heritage sites.
 - Free admission for children and youth 17 and under
 - Half-off admission for guests aged 18 - 24
- July 12: Old Fort Erie hosted a sold-out Night of Murder Mystery event; 150 guests attended.
- July 25: Chair Bob Gale and Heritage staff attended the annual Battle of Lundy's Lane memorial.



Planning, Environment and Culture

Environmental Stewardship

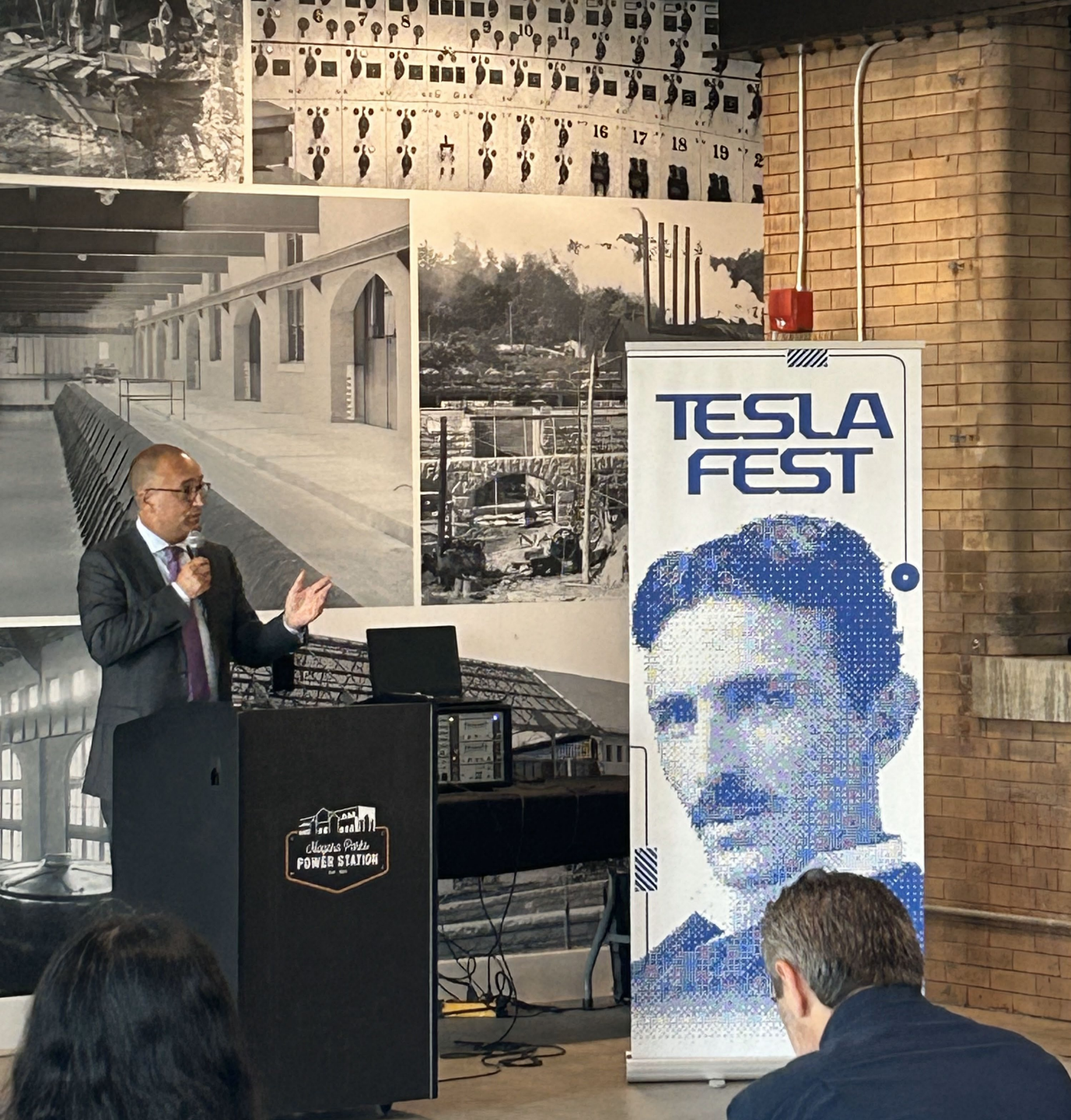
- Forestry finished planting 1,200 small stock trees and 240 larger trees.
- Clearing of invasive Tree of Heaven near the zip line attraction.
- First installment of “Wilderness Weekends” monthly themed nature events, from hiking and bouldering, to painting and wildlife photography.



Planning, Environment and Culture

School of Horticulture

- The incoming Class of 2028 has 17 students, marking the highest enrollment year on record. Classes start on September 2, 2025.
- Two days in July are dedicated to the GK test, assessing skills in key areas like Arboriculture, Occupational Health and Safety, and more. This assessment prepares students for the Red Seal Horticultural Technician exam.
- The PAC meeting focused on Environmental Stewardship in Ornamental Horticulture with alumni and industry experts. Updates from this meeting will be integrated into the curriculum starting this September.



Planning, Environment and Culture

Events, Programming and Education

- July 6: Niagara Parks hosted Coca Cola Canada for its Simply Lemonade Tasting Event at the Falls Incline Plaza at the Bridge of Flowers.
 - 4,788 samples were handed out over the eight hours; about 600 visitors served per hour.
- Celebration of Nikola Tesla - In partnership with the Serbian delegation, Niagara Parks hosted the Tesla Legacy Night event at the Niagara Parks Power Station (July 11) and the Nikola Tesla Day Festival at Oakes Garden Theatre (July 12).
 - Events included a keynote by Tesla biographer Dr. Marc Seifer, a panel discussion
 - Screening of Wireless – The Untold Story of Nikola Tesla
 - Presentation of Seifer's book Nikola Tesla: The Man Who Harnessed Niagara Falls.



Engineering and Parks Operations

Engineering and Project Management

- Fort Erie Shoreline Protection: Construction began July 4; completion expected in October. Path access under review.
- Fisherman's Trail: Closed July 25; repairs completed and reopened by July 30.
- Updated public washrooms now open near the new Queenston Courts.
- Universal Washrooms now open outside the Niagara Parks Power Station and are seeing a high volume of use.
- Anger Ave. & Netherby Rd. Boat Launches: Erosion control work scheduled for August 5 – 8.
- Fort Erie Guardrail Replacement (140m): Awaiting locates; 1-day installation planned for August.
- Burning Springs Guardrail Replacement (140m): Completed July 24.
- Service Road Resurfacing:
 - Roads 23 & 30: August 5–15
 - Road 20: August 25 – September 5
 - Road 63: August 28 – September 5





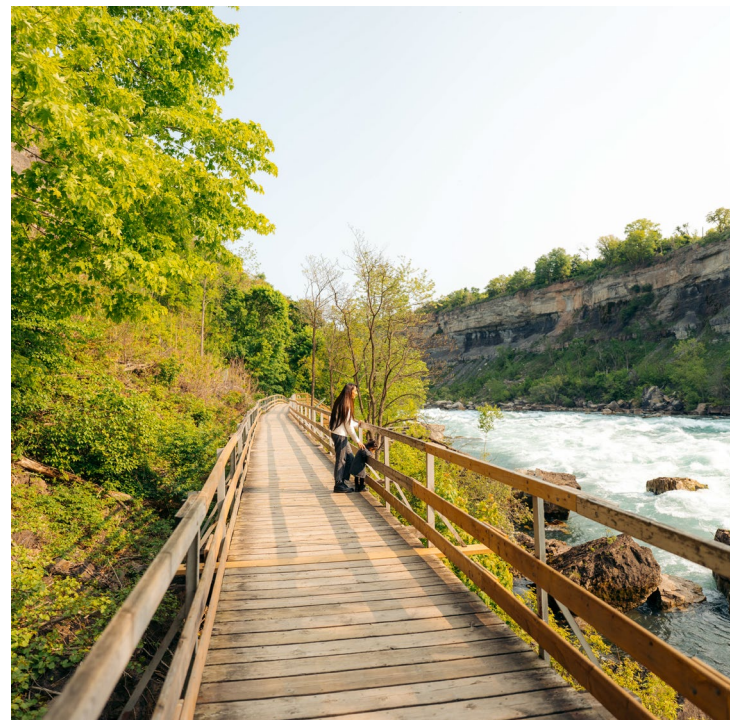
Engineering and Parks Operations

Facility Services

- Hot coals disposal bins have been installed at Kingsbridge Park and Dufferin Islands.

Forestry

- Conducted storm-related hazard tree removals on July 11, 18, and 25.
- Pruned branches along the Niagara River Recreation Trail for safety.
- Maintained vegetation at 36 scenic viewpoints & memorial benches; work ongoing through August.





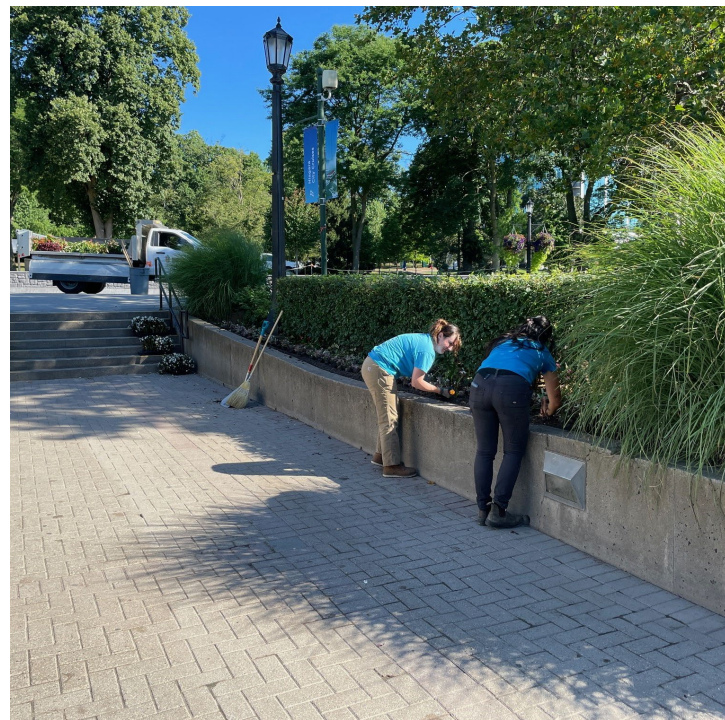
Engineering and Parks Operations

Central Parks

- Repaired irrigation at Oakes Garden Theatre median.
- Installed begonias at Grand View Starbucks and flower boxes on Bridge of Flowers.
- Prepared saddle planters for jersey barriers.
- Planted perennials at Rapidsview Bus Terminal.
- Cleared vegetation along post & rail fence (Rapidsview to Gate House).
- Assisted with Table Rock sculpture & Cherry display installations.

Niagara Parks Marina

- Successfully responded to a boat spill and recovery; plan under review to enhance future response.
- Installed shade pergola and picnic umbrellas.





Engineering and Parks Operations

Health, Safety and Compliance

- **Floral Showhouse Summer Show:** Features yarn bombing to raise awareness for the Deaf and Blind community. CNIB will provide feedback on venue accessibility in August.
- Ongoing review of public washrooms, focusing on past issues and accessible change tables.
- **Heat Alerts:** Communications and monitoring completed for July 11 and 24.
- **August Safety Talk:** In development, covering insect sting/bite prevention and West Nile Virus updates.
- **Emergency Plans:** Updates for site-specific plans in progress; new plan for Queenston Courts being developed, and marina plan under review to improve spill response and boat recovery.



Niagara Parks Police

July Highlights

- July 3: Chief Forcier joined a virtual meeting hosted by the Ministry of the Attorney General on criminal case disclosure.
- July 11: R.I.D.E. checkpoint conducted:
 - 600 vehicles stopped
 - 11 roadside tests
 - 24 traffic tickets (e.g., open liquor)
 - 84 warnings (mainly seatbelt violations)
- July 17: NPPS and Finance hosted a staff BBQ for United Way Niagara, raising over \$3,000.
- July 24: NPPS met with the Ministry of the Solicitor General on operational matters.
- July 30: Casino Security Police Alliance Meeting
- **Ongoing:** Police Chief engaged in discussions about the NG-9-1-1 project with stakeholders and vendors.





Upcoming Events

- Aug. 7 & 8: Niagara 5000 Supercar parade and activations in Queen Victoria Park
- Aug. 9 & 10: Siege of Old Fort Erie; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Aug. 15 & 16: Song to the Waters Performances and outdoor events at Queenston Heights Park
- Aug. 29: Official Opening of *Niagara Takes Flight*
- Sept. 6 & 7: Majestic Monarchs at Butterfly Conservatory, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Sept. 12: 100th anniversary of the Niagara Falls Illumination Board; Special Sound and Light Show to be Presented
- Sept. 13: Fall Display begins at Floral Showhouse with a palette of pink, yellow, apricot and cherry-colour Reiger Begonias
- Sept 13: Opening of the Recognition Garden at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens



Questions & Comments

